

Consumer Product Safety Commission Safety Alert

Crib Sheets

CPSC Document #5137

Sheets in cribs or beds can sometimes be hazardous to babies. Since 1984, CPSC has learned of the deaths of 17 babies, most under 12 months old, who suffocated or strangled primarily when they became entangled in sheets in their cribs or beds. Two of these deaths related to fitted crib sheets.

CPSC staff has worked actively to strengthen safety requirements for fitted crib sheets. Consumers soon will see warning labels on fitted crib sheets stressing the importance of a secure fit on crib mattresses. CPSC staff and industry also are working together to improve the fit of these sheets on mattresses.

To prevent tragedies, parents and caretakers can take the following precautions to ensure a safer sleeping environment for their young children.

- Make sure crib sheets fit snugly on a crib mattress and overlap the mattress so it cannot be dislodged by pulling on the corner of the sheet.
- Never use an adult sheet on a crib mattress; it can come loose and present an entanglement hazard to young children.
- Place a baby on his/her back on a firm, tight-fitting mattress in a crib meeting current safety standards.
- Remove pillows, quilts, comforters, and sheepskins from the crib.



WARNING

Prevent suffocation or entanglement.
Never use crib sheet unless it fits securely on crib mattress.
